

1 Genotyping-by-sequencing illuminates high levels of divergence among sympatric
2 forms of coregonines in the Laurentian Great Lakes

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39 **Abstract**

40 Effective resource management depends on our ability to partition diversity into biologically meaningful
41 units. Recent evolutionary divergence, however, can often lead to ambiguity in morphological and genetic
42 differentiation, complicating the delineation of valid conservation units. Such is the case with the
43 “coregonine problem,” where recent post-glacial radiations of coregonines into lacustrine habitats resulted
44 in the evolution of numerous species flocks, often with ambiguous taxonomy. The application of
45 genomics methods is beginning to shed light on this problem and the evolutionary mechanisms
46 underlying divergence in these ecologically and economically important fishes. Here, we used restriction
47 site-associated DNA (RAD) sequencing to examine genetic diversity and differentiation among sympatric
48 species in the *Coregonus artedi* complex in the Apostle Islands of Lake Superior, the largest lake in the
49 Laurentian Great Lakes. Using 29,068 SNPs, we were not only able to clearly distinguish the three most
50 common forms for the first time, but putative hybrids and potentially mis-identified specimens as well.
51 Assignment rates to form with our RAD data were 93-100% with the only mis-assignments arising from
52 putative F1 hybrids, an improvement from 62-77% using microsatellites. Estimates of pairwise
53 differentiation (F_{ST} : 0.045-0.056) were large given the detection of hybrids, suggesting that hybridization
54 among forms may not be successful beyond the F1 state. We also used a newly built *C. artedi* linkage
55 map to look for islands of adaptive genetic divergence among forms and found widespread differentiation
56 across the genome, a pattern indicative of long-term drift, suggesting that these forms have been
57 reproductively isolated for a substantial amount of time. The results of this study provide valuable
58 information that can be applied to develop well-informed management strategies and stress the
59 importance of re-evaluating conservation units with genomic tools to ensure they accurately reflect
60 species diversity.

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62 **Keywords:** adaptive divergence, management units, genomic islands of divergence, species complex,
63 RAD sequencing, coregonines, population genomics, hybridization

64 **Introduction**

65 Defining conservation units is one of the most fundamental yet challenging aspects of resource
66 management (Coates, Byrne, & Moritz, 2018). Partitioning species into units with substantial
67 reproductive isolation provides managers with the ability to monitor and regulate independently evolving
68 groups that may respond differently to harvest, disease, habitat alteration, or climate change (Allendorf &
69 Luikart, 2007; Ryder, 1986). Over the past several decades, advancements in genetic analysis have
70 provided scientists with powerful tools to estimate the amount of gene flow between species or
71 populations to inform the creation of conservation units (Olsen et al., 2014; Palsbøll, Bérubé, &
72 Allendorf, 2007; Palsbøll, Peery, & Bérubé, 2010; Schwartz, Luikart, & Waples, 2006). With the arrival
73 of the genomics era, the power and accuracy to discern levels of reproductive isolation, inbreeding, and
74 effective population size has vastly improved (Allendorf, Hohenlohe, & Luikart, 2010), and tools such as
75 genome scans have revolutionized our ability to identify and understand adaptative genetic variation
76 (Funk, McKay, Hohenlohe, & Allendorf, 2012; Waples & Lindley, 2018). Despite these advancements,
77 delineating discrete conservation units can still be problematic. For example, taxonomic uncertainty can
78 lead to confusion regarding species boundaries (Bickford et al., 2007; Hey, Waples, Arnold, Butlin, &
79 Harrison, 2003), and observed phenotypic, spatial, temporal, or behavioral differences can be opposed by
80 apparent genetic panmixia (Als et al., 2011; Hoey & Pinsky, 2018; Palm, Dannewitz, Prestegaard, &
81 Wickström, 2009).

82 Perhaps no other group embodies the challenges of defining conservation units better than the
83 coregonines. A subfamily of the Salmonidae, coregonines are comprised of three genera of freshwater and
84 anadromous fishes distributed throughout cold water habitat in North America, Europe, and Asia. The
85 most speciose genus, *Coregonus*, includes the ciscoes and whitefishes, which exhibit an extreme array of
86 phenotype variability that is attributed to recent adaptive radiation into lacustrine habitat following glacial
87 retreat during the Pleistocene epoch (Schluter, 1996). Often, distinct phenotypes can be found both in
88 sympatry and allopatry which leads to difficulty in distinguishing a single, monophyletic origin of forms

89 from parallel ecological speciation in individual lakes. Several coregonines exhibit sympatric dwarf and
90 normal forms, including European whitefish *C. lavaretus*, North American whitefish *C. clupeaformis*,
91 cisco *C. artedi*, and least cisco *C. sardinella* (Huitfeldt-Kaas, 1918; Mann & McCart, 1981; Shields,
92 Guise, & Underhill, 1990; Vuorinen, Bodaly, Reist, Bernatchez, & Dodson, 1993). Empirical evidence of
93 hybridization and introgression (Garside & Christie, 1962; Kahilainen et al., 2011; Lu, Basley, &
94 Bernatchez, 2001) raises the question of how to manage forms when reproductive isolation is incomplete
95 and has led some to suggest that the broad phenotypic variation observed in coregonines is a result of
96 reticulate evolution (Svärdson, 1998; Turgeon & Bernatchez, 2003). This breadth of taxonomic ambiguity
97 in the coregonines was first termed “the coregonid problem” by Svärdson (1949) and persists today as the
98 more accurate “coregonine problem” (Eshenroder et al., 2016; Mee, Bernatchez, Reist, Rogers, & Taylor,
99 2015).

100 In recent decades phenotypic data have been combined with genetic analysis in an attempt to untangle the
101 complicated relationships among coregonines. Taxonomic units in coregonine systematics have
102 traditionally relied on morphological characteristics such as head and body shape, morphometrics, and
103 meristics such as gill raker counts (Himberg, 1970; Koelz, 1929; Svärdson, 1979). Phylogeographic
104 analyses with allozymes, restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs), mitochondrial DNA
105 (mtDNA), and microsatellites have helped resolve evolutionary relationships among species and forms
106 (Bernatchez & Dodson, 1994; Østbye, Bernatchez, Naesje, Himberg, & Hindar, 2005), and this growing
107 body of research indicates that relying solely on phenotypic traits can be problematic for determining
108 phylogenetic relationships when environmental plasticity occurs (e.g. Muir et al., 2013; Todd, 1998;
109 Todd, Smith, & Cable, 1981). Amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLPs), mtDNA, and
110 microsatellite analyses all show support for broad colonization of monophyletic lineages followed by the
111 parallel ecological speciation of sympatric forms of European whitefish *C. lavaretus* (Hudson, 2011;
112 Hudson, Lundsgaard-Hansen, Lucek, Vonlanthen, & Seehausen, 2017; Præbel et al., 2013). Recently,
113 genomics methods have been applied to the coregonine problem in lake whitefish *C. clupeaformis*, and

114 restriction site-associated DNA (RAD) sequencing, quantitative trait loci (QTL) analysis, and genome
115 scans have provided valuable insight into the evolutionary mechanisms of speciation-with-gene-flow in
116 dwarf and normal forms (Gagnaire, Normandeau, Pavey, & Bernatchez, 2013; Gagnaire, Pavey,
117 Normandeau, & Bernatchez, 2013; Laporte et al., 2015; Rogers & Bernatchez, 2007).

118 The most extensive regional adaptive radiation within the *Coregonus* genus in North America occurred in
119 the Laurentian Great Lakes, but detection of genetic differentiation or reproductive isolation among Great
120 Lakes forms has been mostly unsuccessful. Rapid diversification of the shallow water cisco *C. artedi*
121 (Eshenroder et al., 2016; Turgeon & Bernatchez, 2003) into newly available deepwater habitat following
122 the Wisconsin Glacial Episode resulted in the evolution of at least eight distinct forms (Koelz, 1929; Scott
123 & Crossman, 1998). Morphological differences occur across a variety of traits including body and head
124 shape, lower jaw position, eye size, fin length, and gill raker counts (Koelz, 1929), though subtle
125 variations among forms and between lakes can often make visually distinguishing them difficult without
126 all possible forms present (Eshenroder et al., 2016; Turgeon et al., 2016). Different forms typically occur
127 in specific depth ranges, and stable isotope analysis supports niche differentiation indicating that many of
128 the Great Lakes forms occupy different trophic levels with observed changes in proportion of pelagic and
129 benthic food sources (Schmidt, Harvey, & Vander Zanden, 2011; Schmidt, Vander Zanden, & Kitchell,
130 2009; Sierszen et al., 2014). All forms likely undergo seasonal spawning migrations, forming nearshore
131 aggregations in November and December (Stockwell, Hrabik, Jensen, Yule, & Balge, 2010; Yule,
132 Stockwell, Evrard, Cholwek, & Cullis, 2006; Yule, Addison, Evrard, Cullis, & Cholwek, 2009).
133 However, very little is known about behavioral differences between forms during overlapping periods of
134 spawning, maintaining the possibility that hybridization during spawning events could be preventing
135 genetic divergence. Analyses using RFLPs, mtDNA, and microsatellites have resulted in estimates of low
136 or no genetic differentiation among Great Lakes forms (Bernatchez, Colombani, & Dodson, 1991; Reed,
137 Dorschner, Todd, & Phillips, 1998; Turgeon & Bernatchez, 2003; Turgeon et al., 2016) leaving the
138 question of reproductive isolation - particularly among deepwater forms – unanswered.

139 Over the past century, anthropogenic impacts have greatly reduced the original diversity of the *C. artedi*
140 species complex in the Great Lakes, underscoring the need for establishing well-informed conservation
141 units in ciscoes. The introduction of invasive forage fish, overfishing, and habitat loss led to large
142 decreases in cisco abundance and lake-wide extirpation to complete extinction of historically documented
143 deepwater forms (Commission & Christie, 1973; Smith, 1968, 1970; Wells & McClain, 1973). Of the
144 eight accepted forms originally described, only *C. artedi* and three deepwater forms – *C. hoyi*, *C. kiyi*, and
145 *C. zenithicus* - are extant in the Great Lakes (referred to henceforth by specific epithet; Bailey and Smith,
146 1981; Todd and Smith, 1992). A fifth deepwater form, *C. nigripinnis*, has been reduced to nearby Lake
147 Nipigon (Ontario, Canada), though an extant *nigripinnis*-like form is still periodically caught in Lake
148 Superior (Eshenroder et al., 2016). Lake Superior's peripheral location relative to both large human
149 populations (and associated fishing pressure) and the canal construction that opened the Great Lakes to
150 invasion from non-native species appears to have provided some protection from the impacts that
151 extirpated cisco forms from the other four lakes (Koelz, 1926). Of the four lakes in which members of the
152 *C. artedi* complex remain, Lake Superior is the only lake where all extant Great Lakes forms can still be
153 regularly found (Eshenroder et al., 2016).

154 Recent evidence in the Great Lakes for declining abundance of invasive fish such as alewife and
155 increasing abundance in cisco (Bronte et al. 2003, Mohr and Ebener 2005, Schaeffer et al. 2007) has led
156 to growing interest in re-establishing lost populations. An understanding of the roles of heritable genetic
157 differences and reproductive isolation in the establishment and persistence of remnant forms is vital for
158 developing both informed conservation units and restoration strategies. The main goal of our study was to
159 employ genomic methods to improve our understanding of genetic variation among these forms.
160 Specifically, we (1) examined genetic differentiation and diversity among putative forms of cisco (2)
161 compared the performance of SNPs and microsatellites in this system, and (3) leveraged a newly built
162 cisco linkage map (Blumstein, 2019) to investigate adaptive divergence among forms. In order to remove
163 the potentially confounding factor of distinguishing spatial genetic structure from form-based genetic

164 structure, we focused on a single region in Lake Superior where multiple forms of cisco are found in
165 sympatry, the Apostle Islands.

166 **Materials and Methods**

167 Tissue samples preserved in >95% ethanol were collected for the three most common cisco forms—*artedi*,
168 *hoyi*, and *kiyi* in the Apostle Islands (Fig. 1, Table 1). Samples of putative *artedi* were collected in
169 November 2017 using top and bottom gillnet surveys off Madeline Island conducted by the Wisconsin
170 Department of Natural Resources. Putative *artedi*, *hoyi* and *kiyi* were collected in July 2005 off Stockton
171 Island by the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC). In addition, we included a
172 small number of available samples from two rare forms of cisco – *zenithicus* and the *nigripinnis*-like –
173 from Minnesota, Michigan, and Ontario waters in Lake Superior collected by the GLSC in summer 2007,
174 2012-2015. All samples were identified to putative form using a suite of standardized morphological
175 characteristics (Eshenroder et al., 2016). DNA was isolated from fin tissue samples with Qiagen
176 DNeasy® Blood & Tissue Kits.

177 *RAD library prep and sequencing*

178 Restriction site-associated DNA (RAD) libraries were prepared following the BestRAD protocol (Ali et
179 al., 2016). Extracted DNA was quantified using a Quant-it™ PicoGreen® dsDNA Assay (Invitrogen,
180 Waltham, MA) and normalized to a concentration of approximately 50 ng/μl for a 2 μl digestion reaction
181 with the restriction enzyme *SbfI* followed by ligation with barcoded adaptors. Individually barcoded
182 libraries were pooled into master libraries of 96 and fragmented to ~300-500bp with 12-14 30s cycles in a
183 Q500 sonicator (Qsonica, Newtown, CT). Fragmented DNA containing library adapters was bound to
184 Dynabeads™ M-280 Streptavidin magnetic beads (Invitrogen) and washed with buffer to remove non-
185 target fragments before an incubation step to release DNA from the beads. Following purification with
186 AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA) master libraries were input into the NEBNext® Ultra™
187 DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina® at the End Prep step for ligation of master library barcodes, a 250-

188 bp insert size-selection, and a 12-cycle PCR enrichment. Successful size-selection and enrichment were
189 confirmed with visualization of products on a 2% agarose E-Gel (Invitrogen). Products underwent a final
190 AMPure XP purification clean-up followed by quantification with a Qubit® 2.0 Fluorometer. All
191 prepared libraries were sent to Novogene (Sacramento, CA) for sequencing on the Illumina NovaseqS4
192 platform.

193 *Read processing and SNP filtering*

194 Raw sequences generated from RAD sequencing were processed in the software pipeline Stacks v2.3d
195 (Catchen, Amores, Hohenlohe, Cresko, & Postlethwait, 2011; Catchen, Hohenlohe, Bassham, Amores, &
196 Cresko, 2013). Sequences were demultiplexed by barcode, filtered for presence of the enzyme cut-site
197 and quality, and trimmed in the subprogram *process_radtags* (parameter flags: -e *SbfI* -c -q -r -t 140 --
198 filter_illumina --bestrad). Filtered reads for each individual were aligned to create matching stacks with
199 *ustacks* following guidelines suggested from empirical testing to avoid under- or over-merging loci from
200 RAD datasets (Paris, Stevens, Catchen, & Johnston, 2017; parameter flags: --disable-gapped -m 3 -M 5 -
201 H --max_locus_stacks 4 --model_type bounded --bound_high 0.05). A catalog of consensus loci built
202 from 51 *artedi* sampled in Lake Huron used for the development of a cisco linkage map (Blumstein,
203 2019) was appended in *cstacks* with an additional 75 individuals in the *C. artedi* species complex from
204 across the Great Lakes, including 19 fish used in the current study: five *hoyi* and four *kiyi* from the
205 Apostle Islands and five each of *nigripinnis*-like and *zenithicus* from various locations across Lake
206 Superior (parameter flags: -n 3 -p 6 --disable_gapped). Locus stacks for each individual were matched to
207 the catalog using *sstacks* (parameter flag: --disable_gapped), data were oriented by locus in *tsv2bam*, and
208 reads were aligned to loci and SNPs were called with *gstacks*. SNPs genotyped in greater than 30% of
209 individuals (parameter flag: -r 0.3) were exported with the subprogram *populations* in genepop and
210 variant call format (vcf) files.

211 Primary SNP filtering was performed with vcftools v0.1.15 (Danecek et al., 2011) and included (1)
212 removing loci genotyped in fewer than 80% of individuals, (2) removing individuals missing more than

213 50% of loci, and (3) removing loci with a minor allele count less than 3. In addition, since all salmonids
214 including members of the *C. artedi* species complex have experienced a recent genome duplication,
215 putatively paralogous loci were identified with the program HDPlot (McKinney, Waples, Seeb, & Seeb,
216 2017), and any loci with heterozygosity greater than 0.55 or a read ratio deviation greater than 5 and less
217 than -5 were removed. Finally, loci on the same RAD tag may be linked so only the SNP with the highest
218 minor allele frequency on each tag was included in the final dataset. All file format conversions were
219 performed using PGDSpider v2.1.1.5 (Lischer & Excoffier, 2011).

220 *Microsatellite amplification and genotyping*

221 We used the methods described in Stott et al. (in press) to genotype 12 microsatellites developed for
222 coregonines (Bernatchez, 1996; Patton, Gallaway, Fechhelm, & Cronin, 1997; Rogers, Marchand, &
223 Bernatchez, 2004) and salmonids (Angers, Bernatchez, Angers, & Desgroseillers, 1995; Estoup, Presa,
224 Krieg, Vaiman, & Guyomard, 1993) in *artedi*, *hoyi*, and *kiyi* from the Apostle Islands: *Bwf1*, *Bwf2*, *C2-*
225 *157*, *Cocl23*, *CoclLav6*, *CoclLav27*, *CoclLav32*, *CoclLav72*, *Sfo8*, *Sfo23*, *Str-60*. *Sfo8* consistently
226 amplifies two genomic regions resulting in alleles sorting into upper (U: 215-281bp) and lower (L: 163-
227 193bp) size ranges, therefore *Sfo8* is considered two loci. Fragment analysis was performed using a
228 Genetic Analyzer 3.0 (Life Technologies), and genotypes were assigned at each locus using GeneMapper
229 3.7 (Life Technologies). We used Genepop v4 (Rousset, 2008) to conduct exact tests for deviations from
230 Hardy-Weinberg and linkage equilibrium ($\alpha = 0.01$). Three loci were removed for being out of Hardy-
231 Weinberg Equilibrium in all three forms (*Bwf1*, *Cocl23*, *CoclLav6*), and no loci showed significant
232 linkage disequilibrium.

233 *Genetic differentiation and diversity*

234 To ensure that our putative form designations were appropriate, we used two approaches to assess genetic
235 similarity among individuals. First, we conducted a principal component analysis (PCA) in the R package
236 'adegenet' (Jombart, 2008) for both the RAD and microsatellite datasets. Next, we estimated the number

237 of ancestral populations, K , contributing to contemporary genetic clustering for the RAD dataset using the
238 program ADMIXTURE v1.3 (Alexander, Novembre, & Lange, 2009). We tested K from 1-5 with
239 ADMIXTURE's cross-validation procedure and a k-fold of 10 (parameter flag: --cv=10) to examine
240 support for each K . A Q -score of less than 70% was used to identify putative hybrids following similar
241 thresholds applied in the literature (Kapfer, Sloss, Schuurman, Paloski, & Lorch, 2013; Marie,
242 Bernatchez, & Garant, 2011; Weigel et al., 2018), and hybrid combinations were assigned to the two
243 populations representing the largest Q -scores within the hybrid individual. ADMIXTURE analysis was
244 only conducted on the RAD dataset because this program is not compatible with microsatellite data.
245 PCA and ADMIXTURE analysis with RAD genotypes revealed that three individuals originally
246 identified as *hoyi* fell within the cluster of *kiyi* samples and, given the discrete clustering of *kiyi* and the
247 strong possibility that these three *hoyi* samples were misidentified in the field, we removed these
248 individuals from both RAD and microsatellite datasets for all further analyses to prevent bias in estimates
249 of diversity, differentiation, and N_e .
250 We calculated a variety of summary statistics for the groups comprised of the five forms (*artedi* -ART,
251 *hoyi* - HOY, *kiyi* - KIY, *nigripinnis* - NIG, and *zenithicus* - ZEN) including percentage of total observed
252 alleles, observed and expected heterozygosity, and an inbreeding coefficient (G_{IS}). Summary statistics for
253 each locus and populations were calculated using both microsatellite and RAD datasets in GenoDive
254 v2.0b23 (Meirmans & Van Tienderen, 2004). Genetic differentiation among all forms was estimated
255 across all loci in the RAD dataset with pairwise F_{ST} (Weir & Cockerham, 1984) in Genepop and tested
256 using exact tests (Goudet et al., 1996; Raymond and Rousset, 1995; alpha = 0.01) in Arlequin (Excoffier
257 & Lischer, 2010). We also calculated locus-specific overall and pairwise- F_{ST} values (Weir & Cockerham,
258 1984) in Genepop using a dataset that included the three forms with $n > 10$ (ART, HOY, and KIY). To
259 compare genetic differentiation between RAD and microsatellite datasets, we used GenoDive to estimate
260 standardized pairwise genetic differentiation, G'_{ST} (Hedrick, 2005), which employs an additional
261 correction for bias from sampling a limited number of populations (Meirmans & Hedrick, 2011).

262 The rate at which individuals were able to be assigned back to their form with both RAD and
263 microsatellite datasets was tested using population assignment in GenoDive for all forms with n>10.
264 Assignment was performed by calculating the home likelihood (L_h) that an individual genotype is from a
265 specific group given the allele frequencies (Paetkau, Calvert, Stirling, & Strobeck, 1995) using the leave-
266 one-out method to avoid the bias from a target individual's contribution to the allele frequencies of a
267 source population. Zero frequencies were replaced with 0.005 and a significance threshold of alpha=0.002
268 was applied separately to each group over 1000 replicated datasets (c.f. Perreault-Payette et al., 2017).
269 Effective population size (N_e) was estimated for all forms with n>10 using both RAD and microsatellite
270 datasets with the bias-corrected linkage disequilibrium method (LDNE; Hill, 1981; Waples, 2006;
271 Waples & Do, 2010) in the software package NeEstimator v2.1 (Do et al., 2014). We used a p-crit of 0.05
272 for the RAD dataset (Waples, Larson, & Waples, 2016) and 0.02 for the microsatellite dataset (Waples &
273 Do, 2010). For the RAD dataset, only comparisons between sampled loci that were found on different
274 linkage groups (LGs) of the cisco linkage map (Blumstein, 2019) were included to correct for physical
275 linkage (Waples et al., 2016). N_e calculations using the linkage disequilibrium method can be biased
276 slightly downward when individuals from multiple cohorts are included in the sample due to a slight
277 Wahlund effect (7% downward bias on average; Waples, Antao, & Luikart, 2014). However, this small
278 bias should not greatly affect the interpretation of the N_e results.
279 Finally, we used EASYPOPv2.0.1 (Balloux, 2001) to compare observed patterns of differentiation and
280 hybridization with simulations encompassing a variety of demographic scenarios. Base parameters for all
281 simulations were informed where possible by cisco life history traits and included random mating, same
282 number of females and males per population (total n=2,000 per population based on our N_e estimates for
283 the three main cisco forms), equal proportions of female and male migration, biallelic loci with free
284 recombination, a mutation rate equivalent to that measured in human and fish nuclear genomes ($\mu=1.0 \times$
285 10^{-8} ; Bernardi & Lape, 2005; Conrad et al., 2011) and the KAM mutation model. First, since successful
286 hybridization among forms will result in introgression and decreased differentiation, we modeled the

287 impacts of hybridization on genetic differentiation with three scenarios: two populations with a starting
288 level of differentiation equal to 1) approximately the level we observed amongst cisco forms with our
289 RAD dataset ($F_{ST} \approx 0.05$), 2) approximately twice the amount observed ($F_{ST} \approx 0.10$), and 3) approximately
290 four times the amount observed ($F_{ST} \approx 0.20$). Preliminary levels of differentiation were achieved with low
291 migration rates (m) set over 1,000 generations (m=0.001, m=0.0005, and m=0.0001, respectively) and
292 followed by 5, 10, or 15 generations of one of three higher migration (i.e. hybridization) rates (m=0.01,
293 0.05, and 0.10) for every initial level of differentiation. Each unique parameter combination was run using
294 a dataset of 1,000 loci and replicated 50 times. Estimates of F_{ST} for each replicate were generated in the R
295 package ‘diveRsity’ (Keenan, McGinnity, Cross, Crozier, & Prodöhl, 2013) with a genepop file
296 containing a subset of 100 randomly selected individuals per population (50 females/50 males). Second,
297 we simulated migration between three populations representing our three common cisco forms (ART,
298 HOY, KIY) in order to reconstruct datasets with similar characteristics to our empirical data and compare
299 signatures of hybridization among them. Preliminary differentiation among the three populations (P1-P3)
300 was set at $F_{ST} \approx 0.05$ using the same method described above, and we allowed populations to hybridize for
301 2, 5, or 10 generations with m=0.05, which was equal to roughly the proportion of hybrids observed in
302 our wild populations between ART-HOY and HOY-KIY. Since no putative ART-KIY hybrids were
303 observed in our RAD dataset, we chose to implement a one-dimensional stepping stone model of
304 migration (Kimura & Weiss, 1964) among simulated populations. Each unique parameter set for these
305 simulations was run using 5,000 loci, a genepop file was output containing a subset of 100 randomly
306 selected individuals per population (50 females/50 males), and ADMIXTURE was used to generate Q -
307 scores for each individual. Hybrids were identified using the same $Q < 0.70$ threshold applied above.

308 *Differentiation across the genome*

309 We examined genetic differentiation across the genome by pairing our data with the *artedi* linkage map
310 constructed by Blumstein (2019). Catalog IDs were identical between the current study and Blumstein
311 (2019) therefore no alignment step was needed to compare loci. To identify putative genomic islands of

312 divergence that were highly differentiated from the rest of the genome, we used a Gaussian kernel
313 smoothing technique (Gagnaire, Pavey, et al., 2013; Hohenlohe et al., 2010; Larson et al., 2017) that
314 incorporated locus-specific differentiation and genomic position on the linkage map. A window size of 5
315 cM and a stepwise shift of 1 cM was used for this analysis, and values of genetic differentiation were
316 weighted according to their window position as described by Gagnaire et al. (2013). Highly differentiated
317 windows were identified by randomly sampling N loci from the genome (where N was the number of loci
318 in the window) and comparing the average differentiation of those loci to the average differentiation of
319 the loci in the window. This sampling routine was conducted 1,000 times for each window. If a window
320 exceeded the 90th percentile of the sampling distribution, the number of bootstrap replicates was increased
321 to 10,000. Contiguous windows that contained at least two loci and exceed the 99th percentile of the
322 distribution after 10,000 bootstrap replicates were classified as putative islands of divergence. We
323 investigated genomic differentiation using four locus-specific metrics: overall F_{ST} and pairwise F_{ST}
324 between each of the three putative forms with n>10 (ART–HOY, ART–KIY, and HOY–KIY). We then
325 plotted overall F_{ST} across the genome and constructed a bubble plot to visualize the number of significant
326 windows on each LG for each comparison. We found over 50 significant windows for each comparison
327 (see results). Conducting an in-depth investigation of all significant windows was not feasible, therefore
328 we isolated in-depth analysis to one LG (Cart21) that contained the most significant windows in the
329 dataset.

330 To investigate this highly differentiated LG, we aligned consensus sequences for all loci from Cart21 to
331 chromosome Ssa05 in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), which is syntenic to Cart21 in *artedi* (Blumstein,
332 2019). Sequence was obtained from genome version ICSASG_v2 (Lien et al., 2016) and alignments were
333 conducted with BLASTN. The best alignment for each locus was retained, and all alignments had e-
334 values < 1e-58. We then visualized the relationship between recombination and physical distance using
335 alignments to Ssa05 and information from the *artedi* linkage map to determine whether this highly
336 differentiated region is characterized by lower recombination. We also obtained annotation information

337 from the Atlantic salmon genome to determine whether genes of interest were co-located with areas of
338 high divergence. Finally, we plotted the allele frequencies of the 10 SNPs on Cart21 with the highest
339 overall F_{ST} to investigate whether these SNPs show consistent patterns of population structure.

340 **Results**

341 *Sequencing and genotyping*

342 A total of 137 individuals were RAD sequenced producing more than 455 million reads and an average of
343 3,346,457 reads per sample. After filtering, 119 individuals with representatives from all five putative
344 cisco forms in Lake Superior were genotyped at 29,068 loci (Table 1). More than half of these loci
345 (n=15,348 loci) were also placed on the linkage map. Since both RAD sequencing and microsatellite
346 amplification were performed on the same *hoyi* and *kiyi* samples, microsatellite genotypes used in our
347 analyses were restricted to the same individuals that successfully genotyped with our RAD loci. An
348 additional 30 *artedi* from Stockton Island were genotyped at the 9 microsatellite loci. Paired-end
349 assemblies for each locus are available from Blumstein (2019).

350 *Genetic differentiation and diversity*

351 PCA showed a sharp contrast in resolution between marker sets with microsatellites producing one large
352 cluster of overlapped forms across the first two principal components and the RAD dataset producing
353 three major clusters primarily composed of ART, HOY, and KIY (Fig. 2). The ART cluster separates
354 from HOY and KIY along the first principal component (PC), and HOY and KIY form discrete clusters
355 along the second PC with three exceptions. Three individuals originally identified as *hoyi* fell within the
356 KIY cluster (see methods and ADMIXTURE results below). Of the rare forms, *nigripinnis* (NIG) loosely
357 grouped in the center of the PCA, with five of the six samples falling out between the ART, HOY, and
358 KIY clusters (Fig. 2). The sixth sample fell within the ART cluster, and like the three *hoyi* in the KIY
359 cluster, possibly represents a misidentified specimen. Unlike the NIG samples, which suggest the
360 possibility for a distinct cluster with the addition of more specimens, the four ZEN samples closely

361 associated with either the HOY cluster (n=1) or the KIY cluster (n=3). Low representation of both NIG
362 and ZEN in our RAD dataset reduces our ability to draw strong conclusions based on these PCA results,
363 so both groups were unaltered for estimates of diversity, inbreeding and differentiation and dropped for
364 the remaining analyses.

365 The most supported number of ancestral populations (K) estimated using the cross-validation procedure in
366 ADMIXTURE was two (Fig. 3). Examining additional K s for significant sub-structuring among forms
367 generated results that corroborated those from the PCA. When $K=2$, the ART cluster splits from HOY,
368 KIY, and ZEN. Individuals in the NIG cluster exhibited mixed ancestry between the two major groups as
369 seen on PC1 of the PCA. When $K=3$, the major genetic ancestries differentiate the ART, HOY, and KIY
370 clusters as seen on PC2. The three putatively misidentified *hoyi* first noted in the PCA all had Q estimates
371 of 100% for the KIY cluster and were removed from further analyses. Additional K s did not differentiate
372 either the NIG or ZEN cluster but begin to differentiate small subsets of individuals within groups, which
373 was likely statistical noise.

374 Observed and expected heterozygosity ranged from 0.186-0.246 and 0.242-0.273 (respectively) in the
375 RAD dataset and 0.534-0.629 and 0.607-0.659 (respectively) in the microsatellite dataset (Table 1).
376 Inbreeding coefficients were not substantially different from zero in both datasets. The largest G_{IS} was
377 measured in ZEN from only four samples (0.279) and the rest were between -0.028-0.196. All estimates
378 of pairwise genetic differentiation among forms with $n>10$ (ART, HOY, KIY) with the RAD dataset were
379 significant (Table 2). The magnitude of genetic differentiation followed similar trends observed in the
380 PCA, with ART being slightly more differentiated from deepwater forms ($F_{ST}=0.049-0.056$). This pattern
381 remained the same with a standardized measure of genetic differentiation in the RAD and microsatellite
382 datasets (Table 3). All pairwise comparisons in both datasets were significant with higher overall values
383 of G'_{ST} generated using microsatellites (0.110-0.122) than SNPs (0.060-0.75). See Tables S1 and S2 for
384 locus-specific summary statistics.

385 Population self-assignment rate using the microsatellite dataset ranged from 61.9-76.7% with *artedi*
386 exhibiting the highest likelihood of being assigned back to the ART group (Table 1). Assignment rate
387 with the RAD dataset was 100% for the KIY group and 98.3% and 92.5% for the ART and HOY groups
388 (respectively), a result of one putative *artedi* assigning to HOY and two putative *hoyi* individuals
389 assigning to KIY. In the ADMIXTURE analysis, these three individuals exhibited relatively high Q
390 estimates for ancestry to the populations to which they were assigned (*artedi*, $Q_{HOY} = 67.4\%$; *hoyi*, $Q_{KIY} =$
391 64.2% and 56.2%). In the PCA generated from the same data, these individuals were oriented between the
392 main clusters. In the microsatellite dataset with the same *hoyi* and *kiyi* samples, neither of the two
393 potentially misclassified *hoyi* assigned to the HOY group, with one being assigned to ART and one to
394 KIY. Assignment scores are reported in supplementary tables S3-S5.

395 Estimates of N_e with the microsatellite dataset ranged from 73 in HOY to 659 in KIY (Table 1). Only the
396 estimate for ART produced both upper and lower bound confidence intervals (N_e : 91, CI: 42-6,126),
397 whereas the estimates for HOY and KIY produced confidence intervals with an ‘*infinite*’ upper bound. An
398 ‘*infinite*’ upper bound is typically an indication that the data are not powerful enough to produce an
399 accurate estimate of N_e given the sample size, population size, and/or marker resolution (Do et al. 2014;
400 Waples & Do 2010). For the RAD dataset, estimates of N_e were generated with loci that were placed on
401 the linkage map and ranged from 1,701-2,126 with confidence intervals within 10% of these values.

402 We documented a relatively high level of hybridization in our empirical dataset, with ART-HOY hybrids
403 comprising 8.6% of the total number of sampled *artedi* and *hoyi*, HOY-KIY hybrids comprising 4.3% of
404 sampled *hoyi* and *kiyi*, and ART-KIY hybrids comprising 0% (Fig. 3, Table S6). Additionally, most of
405 these appear to be F1 hybrids with similar contributions from two genetic groups (Fig. 3). The fact that
406 we observed frequent hybridization coupled with relatively high genetic differentiation was puzzling and
407 prompted us to conduct two types of simulations to investigate how hybridization (i.e. migration) can
408 influence genetic differentiation. Simulated hybridization over a 15-generation period resulted in declines
409 in genetic differentiation among populations for all tested levels of migration (Fig. 4). When the

410 migration rate was set to 5 or 10%, levels of differentiation more than halved after only five generations
411 for all initial levels of F_{ST} . A migration rate of 1% resulted in steadily declining genetic differentiation but
412 only began to approach a halved F_{ST} after 15 generations.

413 Simulations of stepping stone migration between three populations and subsequent ADMIXTURE
414 analysis resulted in an overall pattern very similar to that observed in our empirical data (Figs 3, S1;
415 Table S6). The major goal of these simulations was to determine whether individuals that we observed in
416 our empirical data with Q -scores between 0.1-0.2 for alternative forms were advanced hybrid backcrosses
417 or whether these observations were statistical noise. Results from the simulations with 2 generations of
418 migration (G2), where only F1 migrants are possible, demonstrated that these 0.1-0.2 Q -scores are likely
419 statistical noise, as they were present in this simulation (Fig S1). Simulations with 5 (G5) and 10 (G10)
420 generations of migration illustrate that advanced backcrosses will likely have Q -scores for alternate forms
421 of at least 0.2. These simulations therefore support our hypothesis that most of the hybrids observed in the
422 empirical data are F1 crosses.

423 *Differentiation across the genome*

424 Genetic differentiation across the genome was generally high, with many loci displaying overall F_{ST}
425 values > 0.2 (Figs 5, S2-S5). This differentiation was also not localized to a few LGs, as every LG had at
426 least one locus with $F_{ST} > 0.2$. Kernel smoothing analysis to investigate putative islands of divergence
427 revealed 389 genomic windows that displayed significantly elevated differentiation compared to the rest
428 of the genome (Figs 5, S2-S5). The number of significant windows was highest for the overall F_{ST}
429 comparison (115), followed by the ART-HOY comparison (101), ART-KIY comparison (98), and HOY-
430 KIY comparison (75). Significantly differentiated windows were found on all but five LGs (average per
431 LG=10, SD=10, range=0-36). LG Cart21 displayed the highest number of differentiated windows,
432 prompting us to conduct an in-depth investigation of this LG to investigate patterns and potential drivers
433 of divergence (Fig. 6).

434 Cart21 contained 36 significantly differentiated windows; with the largest number of windows found for
435 the ART-KIY comparison (18), followed by the overall F_{ST} comparison (13), ART-HOY comparison (4),
436 and HOY-KIY comparison (1). We were able to place 351 loci on Cart21, and 12 of these loci displayed
437 overall F_{ST} values > 0.3 (Fig. 6a). The largest cluster of high- F_{ST} loci was found between 0-10 cM on the
438 linkage map. This region appears to be characterized by relatively low recombination, as loci found in the
439 first 10 cM of Cart21 span about 25 megabases of the Atlantic salmon genome (Fig. 6b). Alignments to
440 the Atlantic salmon genome were possible for 151 loci on Cart21, and these alignments revealed that the
441 highest F_{ST} loci were found between positions 15 million and 25 million on Ssa05 (Fig. 6c). Some of
442 these loci were found in genes with functions that include cell signaling and membrane transport.
443 However, there are over 2,000 genes on Ssa05, making it difficult to reach any robust conclusions about
444 the functional significance of our loci. Allele frequencies at the high- F_{ST} were generally the most
445 diverged between ART and the other two forms, KIY in particular (Fig. 6d).

446 **Discussion**

447 The resolution of genetic structure in recently diverged species complexes has proved challenging with
448 traditional genetics methods, prompting the reevaluation with genomics of a taxonomically uncertain
449 species complex in the Laurentian Great Lakes. Using 29,068 SNPs to examine differentiation and
450 diversity of sympatric coregonines in the Apostle Islands of Lake Superior, we were able to
451 unambiguously assign individuals to the three major forms as well as identify putative F1 hybrids and
452 mis-identified individuals. Despite a century of anthropogenic impacts in the Great Lakes that has seen
453 the extirpation and extinction of historically documented forms in the *C. artedi* species complex,
454 estimates of N_e and diversity in Apostle Island populations do not suggest the three major extant forms are
455 experiencing bottleneck effects. Genetic differentiation among forms was notably high despite the
456 presence of hybrids. However, simulations to explore the impacts of hybridization on differentiation and
457 the interpretation of low levels of statistical noise in ADMIXTURE analyses indicate a high likelihood
458 that hybridization beyond the F1 state is not successful. This is further supported by the discovery of

459 widespread differentiation between forms across the genome, indicating that much of the divergence
460 observed has been driven by long term reproductive isolation and drift.

461 *Hypotheses for high genetic differentiation among forms*

462 Genetic differentiation of the three primary cisco forms in our study (*artedi*, *hoyi*, *kiiy*) was relatively high
463 compared to previous research in cisco using allozymes, mtDNA, microsatellites, AFLPs, and RAD data,
464 which has largely suggested that forms are not frequently diverged within lakes (but see Stott et al., in
465 press; Turgeon, Estoup, & Bernatchez, 1999; Turgeon et al., 2016). For example, Piette-Lauzière et al.
466 (2019) documented neutral F_{ST} values near or below 0.01 between forms in small lakes within Algonquin
467 Provincial Park (Ontario, Canada) using RAD data, which were much lower than the F_{ST} values of ~0.05
468 observed in our study. Unfortunately, genetic data for cisco in the Great Lakes is relatively sparse,
469 however, a previous study using mtDNA and microsatellites did not find evidence of differentiation
470 among forms (Turgeon & Bernatchez, 2003). Results from the microsatellites genotyped in the current
471 study are similar and indicate that these markers are unable to differentiate species in Lake Superior, even
472 though genetic structure was relatively high according to the RAD data. Interestingly, our estimates of
473 genetic divergence among forms more closely mirror two studies in lake whitefish and European
474 whitefish that used RAD sequencing (Feulner & Seehausen, 2019; Gagnaire, Pavey, et al., 2013) than
475 previous studies in cisco that genotyped mtDNA and microsatellites.

476 The high genetic divergence among forms observed in cisco is not typical of other fishes in the
477 Laurentian Great Lakes. Both lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)
478 display significant life history polymorphisms in the Great Lakes, with lake trout exhibiting
479 morphologically distinct ecotypes related to depth and brook trout exhibiting both fluvial and adfluvial
480 life histories. Two recent studies used RAD sequencing to investigate life history polymorphism in these
481 species, and neither was able to document strong signals of divergence among forms (Elias, McLaughlin,
482 Mackereth, Wilson, & Nichols, 2018; Perreault-Payette et al., 2017). It is possible that divergence within
483 these forms was reduced through introgression mediated by stocking, as these species were stocked

484 heavily, whereas cisco was not (Baillie, Muir, Scribner, Bentzen, & Krueger, 2016; Wilson et al., 2008).
485 However, it is also possible that reproductive isolation among cisco forms is more complete, reducing the
486 potential for introgression to erode divergence among forms.
487 Very little is known about the spawning biology of forms outside of *artedi*, although our observation of
488 relatively frequent F1 hybrids between ART-HOY and HOY-KIY suggests that there is at least some
489 overlap in reproductive timing among the three forms. It is also notable that we did not observe any putative
490 hybrids between ART-KIY. These three cisco forms are encountered in different depths in Lake Superior,
491 with *artedi* inhabiting waters < 80 m deep, *hoyi* inhabiting depths between 60-160 m, and *kiyi* inhabiting
492 depths from 80-200 m (Eshenroder et al., 2016). This depth stratification likely explains our observation
493 that *hoyi* hybridizes with *artedi* and *kiyi* but *artedi* and *kiyi* do not hybridize with each other.
494 Our observation that F1 hybrids are relatively common but hybrid backcrosses appear to be uncommon is
495 consistent with substantially reduced fitness and genetic incompatibilities in hybrid backcrosses.
496 Successful hybridization can homogenize genetic structure within a few generations, as evidenced by our
497 simulations and by a large body of literature in species such as European whitefish and cichlids (reviewed
498 in Seehausen, 2006). However, the fact that we do not observe successful backcrosses suggests that
499 negative interactions between hybrid genomes, such as Dobzhansky-Muller incompatibilities
500 (Dobzhansky, 1936; Muller, 1942), may be present in these backcrosses (Dagilis, Kirkpatrick, & Bolnick,
501 2019; Ellison & Burton, 2008). Multiple lines of evidence for hybrid incompatibilities have been found in
502 a sister taxon of cisco, lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*, reviewed in Bernatchez et al., 2010). For
503 example, Rogers and Bernatchez (2006) found that hybrid backcrosses had ~6 times higher mortality than
504 F1 crosses, Renaud, Nolte, and Bernatchez (2009) found disruption of gene expression pattern in
505 backcrosses, and Whiteley, Persaud, Derome, Montgomerie, and Bernatchez (2009) documented reduced
506 sperm performance in backcrosses. Our results combined with those from lake whitefish provide evidence
507 that hybrid backcrosses may experience dramatically reduced fitness in cisco. However, future research is

508 necessary to empirically test this hypothesis and investigate potential mechanisms for genomic
509 incompatibilities in hybrid backcrosses.

510 *Genetic differentiation across the genome*

511 Comparison of patterns of genomic divergence found in our study with previous research suggests that
512 diversification of cisco forms in the Great Lakes is likely polygenic and that these forms have been
513 isolated without gene flow for a relatively long period of time. We identified over 100 significantly
514 differentiated genomic windows in our study, and genetic differentiation among forms was consistently
515 high across the genome. This result is similar to two other investigations of genomic divergence in
516 coregonines (Feulner & Seehausen, 2019; Gagnaire, Pavé, et al., 2013), but differs substantially from
517 genome scans in some other salmonids that have revealed supergenes responsible for substantial
518 phenotypic divergence across large geographic areas and differing genetic backgrounds (e.g. Barson et
519 al., 2015; Pearse et al., 2018; Prince et al., 2017). Specifically, Feulner and Seehausen (2019) investigated
520 genomic divergence in three species of whitefishes (*Coregonus* spp) from two lakes in Switzerland and
521 found high divergence on all chromosomes, and Gagnaire et al. (2013) assessed divergence between
522 species pairs of lake whitefish (*C. clupeaformis*) across five lakes in the St. John River Basin (Maine,
523 USA and Québec, Canada) and also found consistently high differentiation across the genome. By
524 comparison, Barson et al. (2015) found a single genomic region that is largely responsible for age-at-
525 maturity in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Prince et al. (2017) discovered a small genomic region that is
526 highly associated with run timing in steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Chinook salmon
527 (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Pearse et al. (2018) documented a large inversion associated with life
528 history polymorphism (anadromy vs residency) in steelhead. Taken together, these results suggest
529 divergence of coregonines in both Europe and North America is likely polygenic. This conclusion is
530 supported by a large body of research in lake whitefish demonstrating that traits that differ among species
531 (e.g. body size, growth rate) are controlled by many quantitative trait loci (QTL) (Gagnaire, Normandeau,
532 et al., 2013; Laporte et al., 2015; Rougeux, Gagnaire, Praebel, Seehausen, & Bernatchez, 2019).

533 Additionally, signatures of parallel evolution at the genomic level are relatively rare in coregonines
534 (Feulner & Seehausen, 2019; Gagnaire, Pavey, et al., 2013), providing evidence that adaptive divergence
535 in this taxon is likely controlled by many genes of small effect that generally differ across speciation
536 events.

537 Even when speciation is controlled by many genes of small effect, patterns of genetic differentiation may
538 not be homogenous across the genome (Nosil & Feder, 2012; Nosil, Funk, & Ortiz-Barrientos, 2009).
539 Heterogenous genomic divergence is hypothesized to be especially common during sympatric speciation
540 (i.e. divergence with gene flow), as selectively advantageous loci that are clustered together are protected
541 from between population recombination (Via, 2012; Via & West, 2008). Prolific islands of divergence
542 have been identified in stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) forms that diverged within the last 150 years
543 (Marques et al., 2016) and in species with high gene flow, such as stick insects (*Timema cristinae*, Soria-
544 Carrasco et al., 2014) and *Heliconius* butterflies (Nadeau et al., 2012). Often these islands are found in
545 areas of low recombination (Burri et al., 2015; Samuk et al., 2017), as we observed in LG Cart21.
546 However, as populations drift apart, high levels of divergence accumulate across the genome, making it
547 difficult to differentiate genomic islands involved in the original divergence from accumulated genetic
548 drift in populations that have been isolated for a long time period (Via, 2012). This pattern was observed
549 in sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), where an island of divergence that is highly visible across
550 multiple drainages in Alaska was partially obscured in the Copper River, which has experienced lower
551 gene flow and therefore much more genetic drift than the other systems (Larson et al., 2019). The high
552 and relatively homogenous patterns of genetic differentiation observed in our study suggest that genomic
553 islands involved in diversification may be obscured in a similar fashion.

554 *Conservation implications*

555 We documented high genetic differentiation among the three major cisco forms in Lake Superior and,
556 based on this information, we suggest that separate conservation units could be constructed for each form.
557 This strategy differs from the current conservation paradigm for cisco, which recommends that the entire

558 *C. artedi* species complex be considered *C. artedi* sensu lato (translation, in the broad sense) and that
559 units of conservation should be designed to preserve environments that have facilitated the evolution of
560 different forms (i.e. lakes) rather than on forms at a larger scale (Turgeon & Bernatchez, 2003; Turgeon et
561 al., 2016). These recommendations were informed by the best available data, which up to this point, have
562 been generated with commonly employed markers for the detection of taxonomic and conservation units -
563 AFLPs, mtDNA, and microsatellites (Reed et al., 1998; Turgeon & Bernatchez, 2003; Turgeon et al.,
564 2016) - none of which have been able to consistently resolve different forms within the Great Lakes (but
565 see Stott et al., in press for a single lake example). Our results suggest that “last generation” markers may
566 be insufficient for capturing differentiation in evolutionarily young species, such as cisco, and highlight
567 the utility of genomic data for designating conservation units in these species. However, it is important to
568 note that we only surveyed animals from one lake, and a larger genotyping effort across the Great Lakes
569 is necessary to accurately inform conservation units for Great Lakes ciscoes. Additionally, our ability to
570 draw conclusions regarding the relationships of the rare forms *nigripinnis* and *zenithicus* to the three
571 major forms was limited by low sample size, therefore, genotyping additional contemporary and/or
572 historic specimens may help resolve the placement these forms.

573 The potential of genomic data to revolutionize construction of conservation units has been frequently
574 discussed (reviewed in Allendorf et al., 2010; Funk et al., 2012), and many studies have found that
575 genomic data provides increased resolution for delineating population structure compared to last
576 generation markers, such as microsatellites (Hodel et al., 2017; Vendrami et al., 2017; Wagner et al.,
577 2013). However, conservation units that were constructed with these last generation markers have
578 generally proven to be robust and are usually only updated slightly, if at all, based on genomic data (e.g.
579 Hecht, Matala, Hess, & Narum, 2015; Larson et al., 2014; Moore et al., 2014). Our findings do not follow
580 this pattern and suggest that current conservation units for cisco may not accurately reflect the diversity of
581 this species. This finding has larger implications for constructing conservation units. Specifically, our data
582 suggest that conservation units constructed based on data from last generation markers that found either

583 low or no significant structure among groups of animals with different phenotypes could potentially be re-
584 evaluated with genomic tools to ensure within-species diversity is being adequately conserved.

585 *Conclusions and future directions*

586 Our study provides the first evidence that cisco forms within the Great Lakes are genetically
587 differentiated. We documented high genetic differentiation among the three major forms in Lake
588 Superior, and highly differentiated markers were distributed across the genome, with islands of
589 divergence found on nearly every linkage group. Additionally, we identified putative F1 hybrids but no
590 hybrid backcrosses, suggesting that fitness breakdown of backcrosses may aid in maintaining
591 differentiation of these forms. The results of this study provide the foundation for a new understanding of
592 the ecology and evolution of the *C. artedi* species complex within the Great Lakes. The ability to
593 differentiate forms with genomics provides researchers with a powerful tool for ground truthing
594 morphological phenotypes and identifying cisco species at any life stage. In particular, the ability to
595 identify larval ciscoes will allow researchers to estimate recruitment, which is vital for management and
596 conservation, and will also significantly improve our understanding of early life history characteristics
597 and reproductive dynamics in this species. Finally, our results suggest that some management units
598 created using last generation markers may not adequately reflect species diversity and could be re-
599 evaluated with genomic data.

600 **Tables**

601 **Table 1.** Sample statistics, diversity, and effective population size estimates. N is the number of individuals
 602 successfully genotyped, A is the percentage of total sampled alleles found in each group, H_o/H_e are
 603 observed/expected heterozygosity, G_{IS} is the inbreeding coefficient, **Assignment** is the percentage of individuals
 604 that were correctly assigned to their population of origin in a leave-one-out test, and N_e is effective population size
 605 calculated using the LDNE method and reported with 95% confidence intervals.

Method	Group	Code	N	A	H_o	H_e	G_{IS}	Assignment	N_e (CIs)
RAD	<i>C. artedi</i>	ART	60	98.5%	0.246	0.253	0.028	98.3%**	1,834 (1,769-1,906)
	<i>hoyi</i>	HOY	21*	94.8%	0.219	0.273	0.196	92.5%**	1,701 (1,487-1,985)
	<i>kiyi</i>	KIY	25	93.4%	0.217	0.242	0.103	100%	2,126 (1,846-2,506)
	<i>nigripinnis</i>	NIG	6	83.1%	0.213	0.261	0.182	-	-
	<i>zenithicus</i>	ZEN	4	76.5%	0.186	0.259	0.279	-	-
Microsatellites	<i>C. artedi</i>	ART	30	70.0%	0.534	0.607	0.121	76.7%	91 (42-6,126)
	<i>hoyi</i>	HOY	21*	65.0%	0.629	0.659	0.046	61.9%	73 (33-Infinite)
	<i>kiyi</i>	KIY	25	67.0%	0.572	0.631	0.093	72.0%	649 (74-Infinite)

606
 607 *Three genotyped *hoyi* samples are suspected to be misidentified *kiyi* from the RAD-based PCA and ADMIXTURE
 608 analysis and were removed to prevent bias in estimates of diversity and N_e .

609 **The one *artedi* that assigned to HOY and the two *hoyi* that assigned to KIY appear to be hybrids. Outside of these
 610 putative hybrids, assignment to the ART and HOY groups was 100%.

611

612

613 **Table 2.** Pairwise differentiation among putative forms calculated with the RAD dataset. F_{ST} values on the lower
 614 diagonal. Significant values are in bold.

Group	ART	HOY	KIY	NIG	ZEN ⁶¹⁵
ART	-				616
HOY	0.049	-			
KIY	0.056	0.045	-		
NIG	0.019	0.013	0.034	-	
ZEN	0.061	0.017	0.020	0.014	-

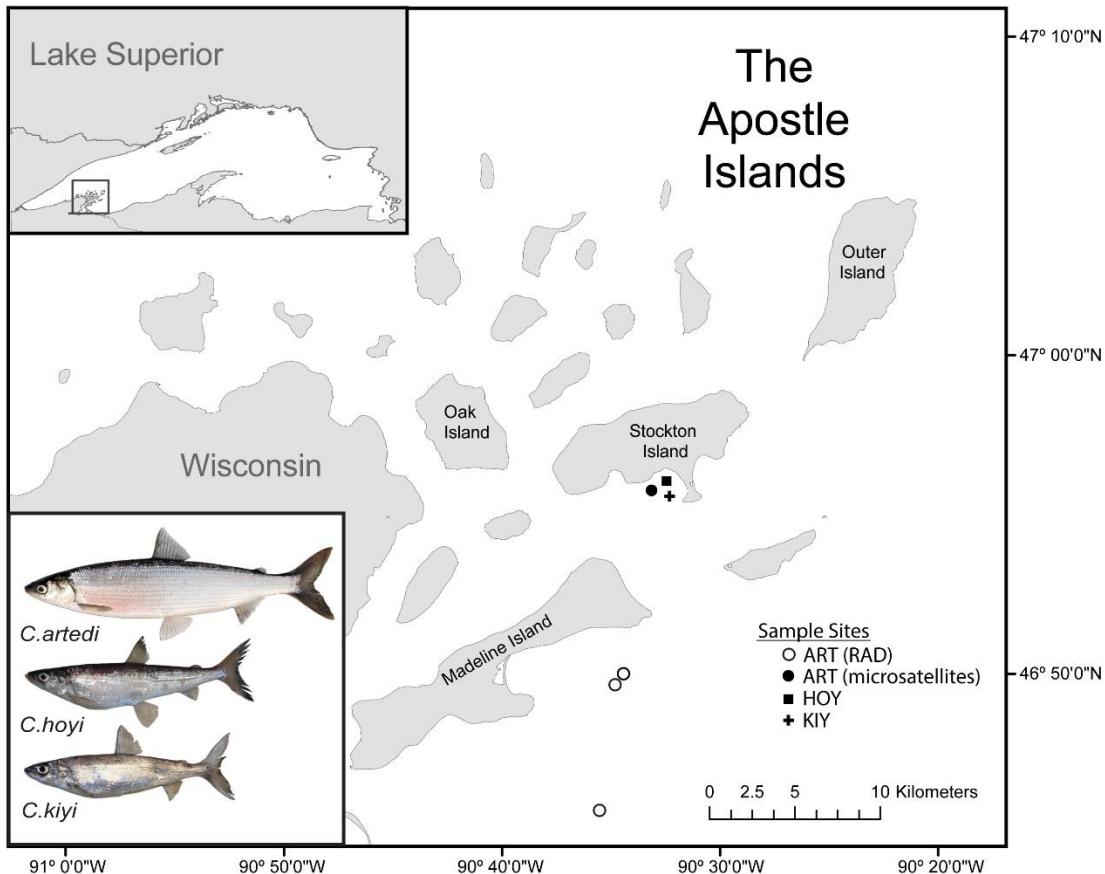
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619 **Table 3:** Standardized pairwise genetic differentiation, G'_{ST} , (Hedrick, 2005) for SNP and microsatellite datasets.
 620 Values measured using the SNP dataset are in the lower diagonal, and values measured using the microsatellite
 621 dataset are in the upper diagonal.

Group	ART	HOY	KIY
ART	-	0.122	0.113
HOY	0.064	-	0.110
KIY	0.075	0.060	-

622 **Figures**

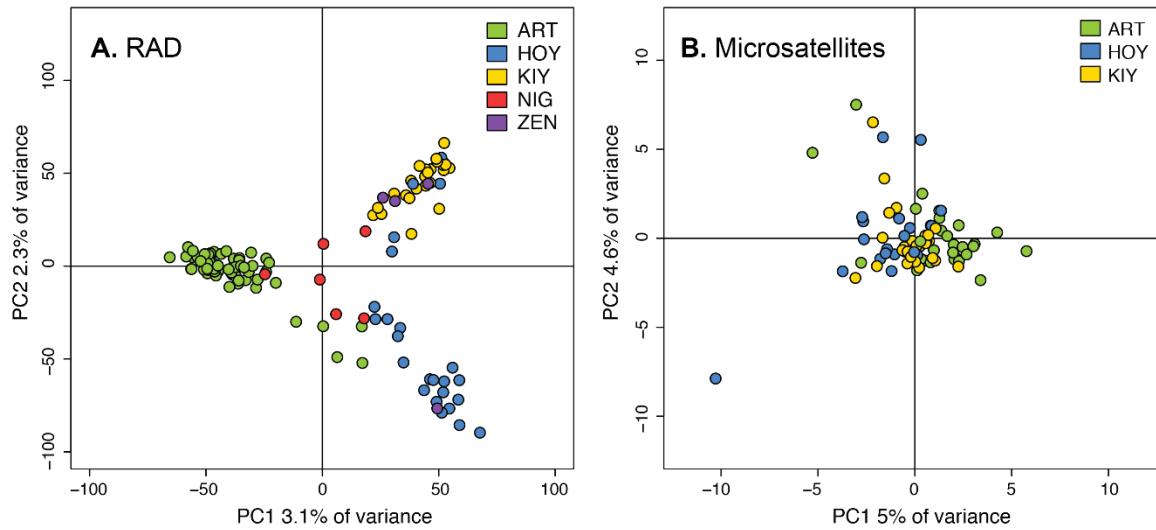


623

624 **Fig. 1.** Map of sample sites in the Apostle Islands. INSET (upper right): Location of the Apostle Islands,
625 gray box, within Lake Superior. INSET (lower right): Photos of the three most common cisco forms
626 found in Lake Superior from Eshenroder et al. (2016, used with permission from the author).

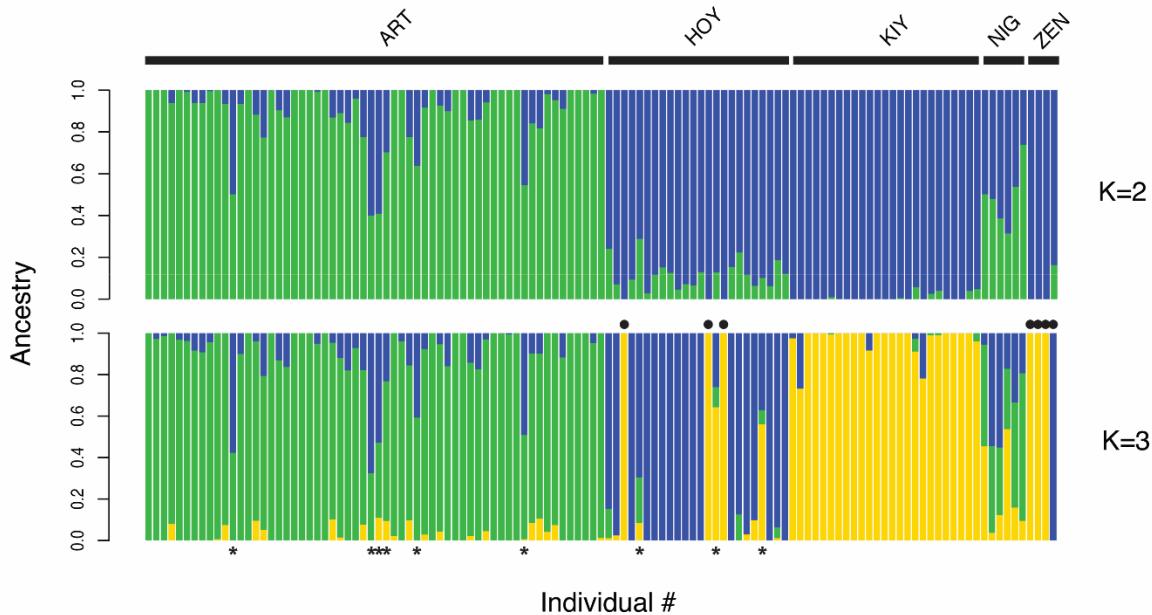
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634 **Fig. 2.** Principal components analysis with RAD (A) and microsatellite (B) data. The percentage of
635 variance explained by each principal component (PC) is labeled on the x- and y- axes.

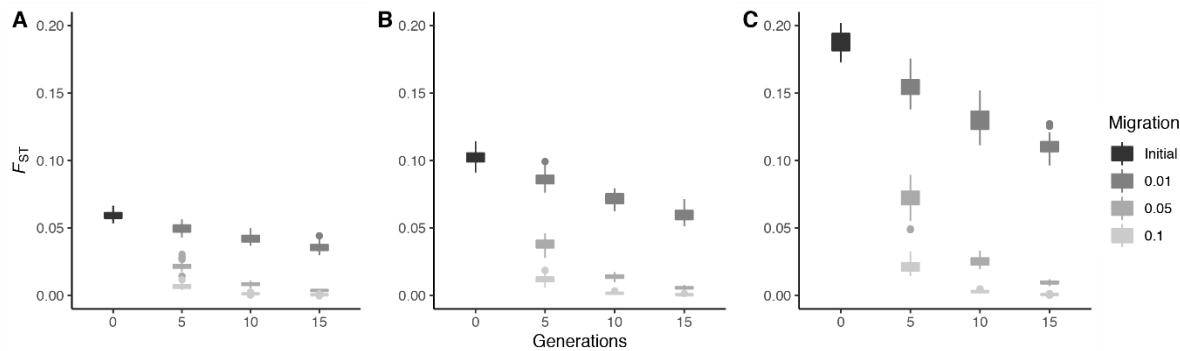
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637

638 **Fig. 3.** Genetic lineages in Apostle Island ciscoes estimated with ADMIXTURE. Each vertical bar
639 represents a single individual and is colored by the proportion of ancestry (Q) assigned to each genetic
640 lineage (K). In the $K=3$ plot (bottom), filled circles represent putatively misidentified individuals within
641 forms (with Q -scores of 100% to other forms) and asterisks represent putative hybrids based on a Q -score
642 threshold of less than 70%.

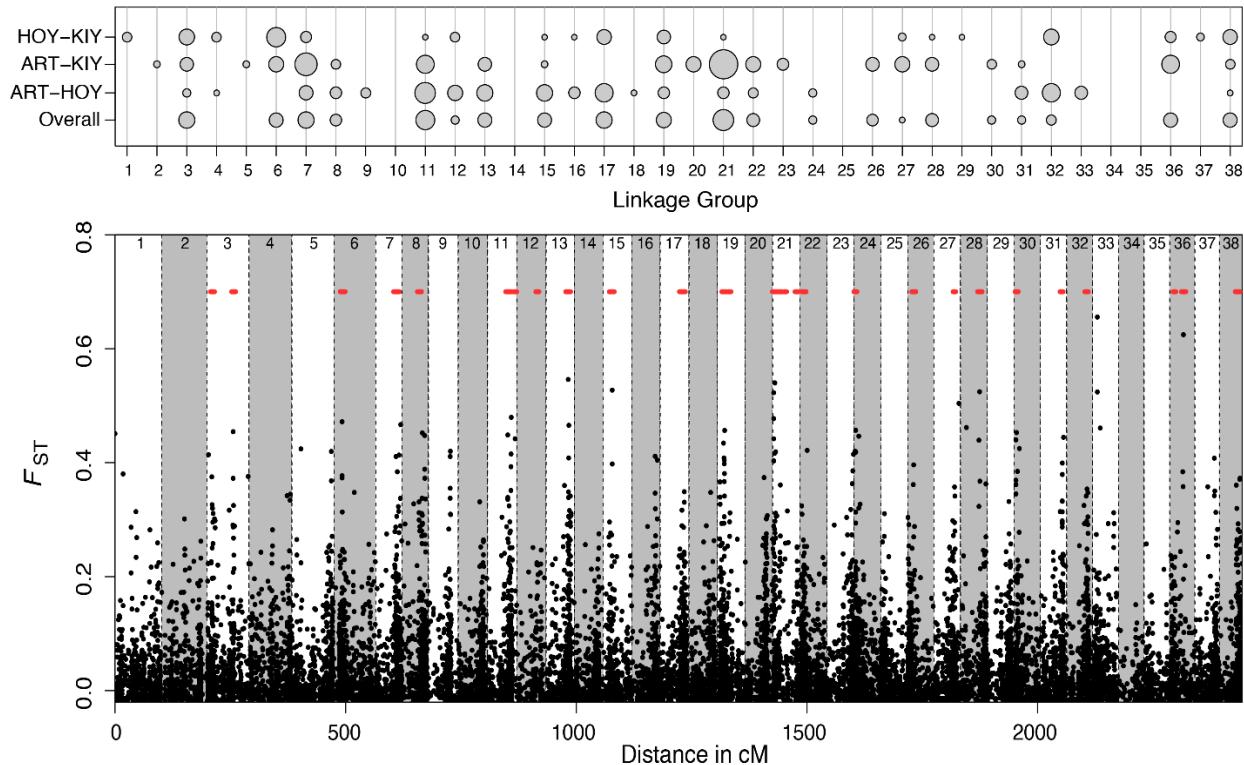
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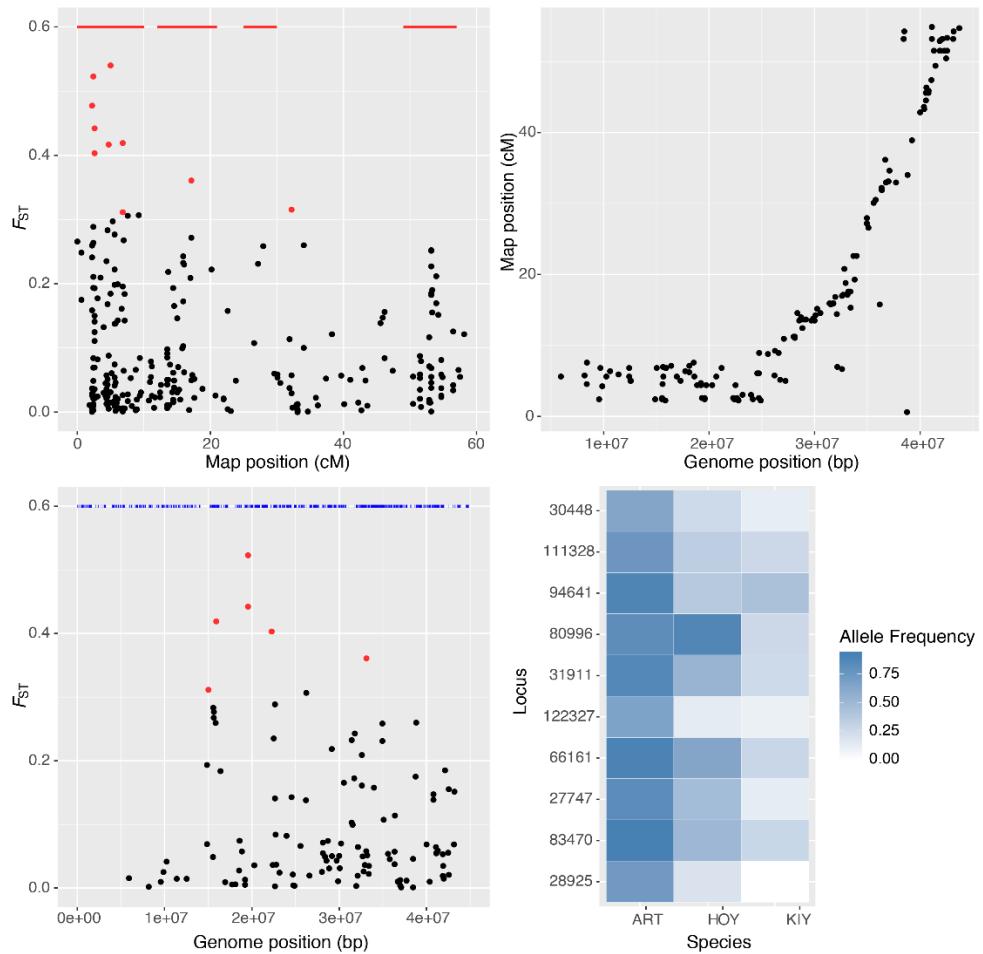
645 **Fig. 4.** Simulated impacts of differing rates of hybridization under three different levels of preliminary
646 differentiation. Each EASYPOP simulation was run using 1000 biallelic loci in two randomly mating
647 populations each comprised of 1000 females and 1000 males with 50 replicates of each unique set of
648 parameters for three starting levels of differentiation: A) a migration rate of 0.001 over 1000 generations
649 resulting in an $F_{ST} \approx 0.05$ followed by 5, 10, or 15 generations of hybridization at 1, 5, and 10% per
650 generation, B) a migration rate of 0.0005 over 1000 generations resulting in an $F_{ST} \approx 0.10$ followed by 5,
651 10, or 15 generations of hybridization at 1, 5, and 10% per generation, and C) a migration rate of 0.0001
652 over 1000 generations resulting in an $F_{ST} \approx 0.20$ followed by 5, 10, or 15 generations of hybridization at 1,
653 5, and 10% per generation.

654



655
656 **Fig. 5.** Genetic differentiation across the genome visualized with a bubble plot (top) and plot with the
657 overall F_{ST} of each marker (bottom). The size of each bubble in the bubble plot represents the number of
658 genomic windows that were significantly differentiated from the rest of the genome according to kernel
659 smoothing analysis for each form comparison. The 'overall' designation is overall F_{ST} across the dataset.
660 Each black dot in the graph of differentiation across the genome represents a marker, and red lines denote
661 significantly differentiated windows. Linkage groups are separated by dashed lines. Form abbreviations
662 are in Table 1. See Figs. S2-S5 for visualizations of genetic differentiation for each chromosome and form
663 comparison.

664



665

666 **Fig. 6.** Investigation of genetic differentiation on linkage group Cart21, the linkage group with the most
667 significantly differentiated windows. (a) Genetic differentiation (overall F_{ST}) at 351 loci that were placed
668 on Cart21 in the cisco linkage map. The top ten loci with the highest F_{ST} are colored red. Red lines denote
669 significantly differentiated windows. (b) Recombination distance on cisco linkage group Cart21 (y-axis)
670 versus physical distance on Atlantic salmon chromosome Ssa05 (x-axis). (c) Genetic differentiation
671 (overall F_{ST}) at 152 loci from Cart21 that successfully aligned to Ssa05, the syntenic chromosome in
672 Atlantic salmon. Six of the top ten loci from panel a aligned to Ssa05 and are colored red. Blue lines
673 indicate the position of genes on Ssa05. (d) Allele frequencies of the loci with the highest F_{ST} from
674 Cart21. Loci are ordered from highest F_{ST} (bottom) to lowest. Form abbreviations are found in Table 1.

675 **Supplementary data:**

676 **Table S1.** Summary statistics for 26,789 loci genotyped with RAD sequencing. The “LG” and “cM”
677 columns denote map location, columns ending in “AF” denote population allele frequencies, “ H_o ” is
678 observed heterozygosity, H_E is expected heterozygosity, the “Sequence P1 column” is the sequence from
679 the P1 read for each RAD tag, and the “Sequence PE” is the sequence obtained from paired-end
680 assemblies. Form abbreviations are identical to those in Table 1.

681 **Table S2.** Summary statistics for 9 microsatellite loci included in this study. Abbreviations are total
682 number of alleles per locus (A), effective number of alleles per locus (N_{eff}), observed heterozygosity
683 (H_o), and expected heterozygosity (H_E). F_{ST} (Weir and Cockerham, 1984) was estimated in Genepop and
684 all other statistics were estimated in Genodive.

685 **Table S3.** Initial assignment scores from Genodive for all sampled individuals using RAD data.

686 **Table S4.** Assignment scores from Genodive when tests were limited to the three major forms using RAD
687 data.

688 **Table S5.** Assignment scores from Genodive for the three major forms using microsatellite data.

689 **Table S6.** Type, number, and proportion of hybrids observed in empirical data and simulated populations.
690 Data simulated in EASYPOP were comprised of 5,000 biallelic loci from three populations (P1-P3) that
691 experienced stepping-stone migration ($m=0.05$) for 2, 5, or 10 generations (G2, G5, G10) after 1,000
692 generations of low migration ($m=0.001$) to approximate an F_{ST} similar to that observed between our three
693 major cisco forms (ART, HOY & KIY, $F_{ST} \approx 0.05$).

694 **Fig S1.** Levels of genetic admixture in three simulated populations after 2, 5, and 10 generations of
695 stepping-stone migration. Simulations were run with random mating of 1,000 females and 1,000 males in
696 each population using 5,000 biallelic loci, and preliminary conditions that produced a similar level of
697 differentiation observed in our RAD dataset among forms ($F_{ST} \approx 0.05$; 1,000 generations with an island
698 migration rate of 0.001). Each ADMIXTURE plot represents a random subset of 50 males and 50 females
699 from each population.

700 **Fig S2.** Overall F_{ST} for all loci that could be placed on the linkage map. Each dot is a marker and red lines
701 indicate genomic windows that were significantly differentiated from the rest of the genome according to
702 kernel smoothing analysis.

703 **Fig S3.** Pairwise- F_{ST} for the ART-HOY comparison for all loci that could be placed on the linkage map.
704 Each dot is a marker and red lines indicate genomic windows that were significantly differentiated from
705 the rest of the genome according to kernel smoothing analysis. Form abbreviations are in Table 1.

706 **Fig S4.** Pairwise- F_{ST} for the ART-KIY comparison for all loci that could be placed on the linkage map. Each
707 dot is a marker and red lines indicate genomic windows that were significantly differentiated from the rest
708 of the genome according to kernel smoothing analysis. Form abbreviations are in Table 1.

709 **Fig S5.** Pairwise- F_{ST} for the HOY-KIY comparison for all loci that could be placed on the linkage map. Each
710 dot is a marker and red lines indicate genomic windows that were significantly differentiated from the rest
711 of the genome according to kernel smoothing analysis. Form abbreviations are in Table 1.

712

713

714 **Data Archiving Statement**

715 Upon acceptance, demultiplexed sequence data used in this research along with corresponding metadata
716 will be archived in the NCBI sequence read archive using the publicly accessible Genomic Observatories
717 Metadatabase (GeOMe, <http://www.geome-db.org/>) and microsatellite genotypes will be archived on
718 DRYAD.
719

720 **Literature Cited**

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